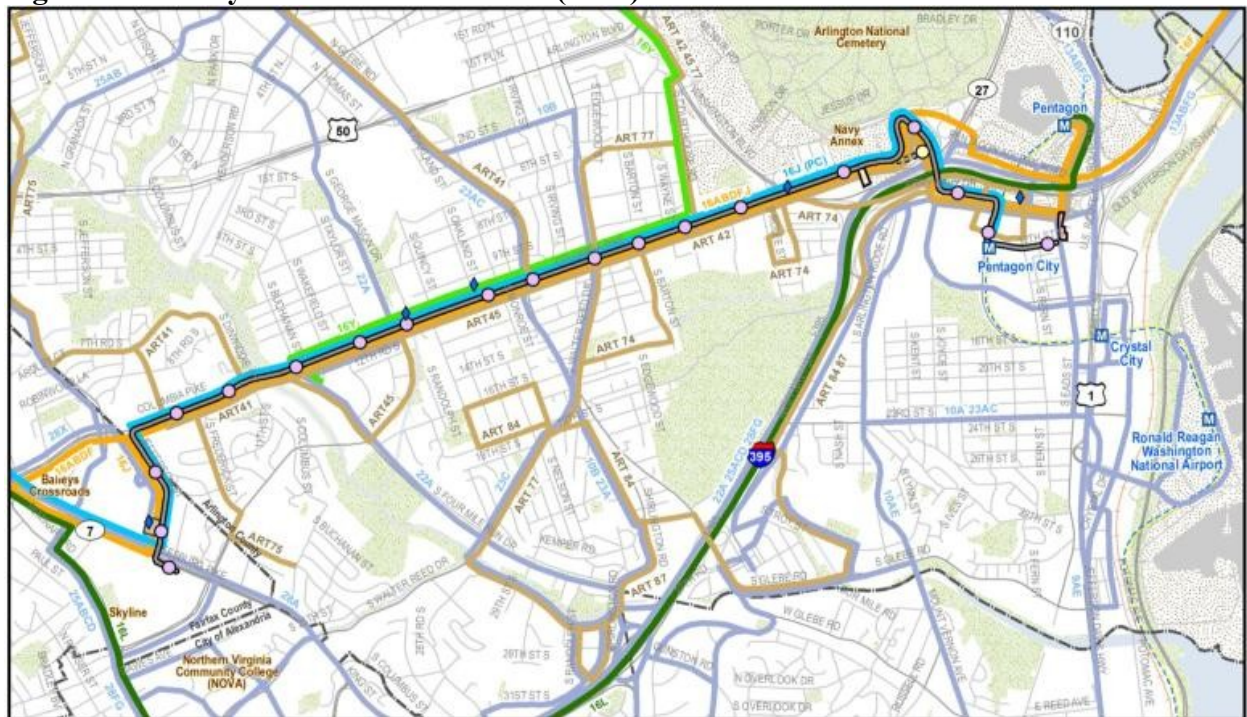


ATTACHMENT: Columbia Pike Transit Initiative Update: Arlington County Approves Locally Preferred Alternative (includes maps)

The Columbia Pike Transit Initiative, established in 2004, is a joint project of Arlington and Fairfax counties to bring enhanced transit services and facilities to the Columbia Pike Corridor, which stretches from Pentagon City to the Skyline area of Fairfax County. On July 24, the Arlington County Board approved the Columbia Pike Streetcar Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) by a vote of 4-1, with one abstention. The LPA is the Streetcar Build Alternative (Figure 1), which includes a design option for the western terminus bending along the south side of Route 7 (Figure 2).

Figure 1. Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) Streetcar Build Alternative



During the project public comment period, Vornado/Charles E. Smith (Realty Trust) submitted a new proposal for a western terminus that crosses Route 7 and ends within the entry to Skyline, but does not run all the way to the Target store (Figure 3). Arlington has been in discussions with Target about this option. As the project progresses, Arlington County staff will continue coordination with Target, VDOT, Vornado /Charles E. Smith, and the Route 7 Multi-modal Study, and will seek guidance from the Federal Transit Administration regarding any evaluation that may be needed for this design option.

The Fairfax County Board will take action on July 31. The Mayor has written both the Arlington and Fairfax county boards advocating for the Route 7 terminus, noting that the Vornado/Charles E. Smith proposal will make it more difficult to extend the streetcar line to Northern Virginia Community College and into the Beauregard Corridor. More info is available at www.piketransit.com

Figure 2. Route 7 LPA Western Terminus



Figure 3. Vornado/Charles E. Smith Proposal

